



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRIWEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 20.

Fair: would we believe that the blight put upon the country by radicalism will be removed when the radical party shall meet the fate to which its malignancy and corruption have doomed it, and the administration be again restored to the hands of the party who will conduct it in the interests, not of a few, but of the whole people, but we fear the injury inflicted has been of too serious a character to be cured even by time, the great specific. The country has been so disgraced by its agents abroad that the estimation in which it was once held by foreign powers can never be regained, and those who have held the high places at home have succeeded not only in making patriotism almost an emotion of the past, but in depriving the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government of the respect that makes authority recognized. The latest instance of this is afforded by an ex-Senator of the United States who is now hanging around Washington applying for a position as consul.

One of the most important resolutions introduced in the General Assembly of the State, this session, was that instructing the Committee on the Revision of the Criminal Laws to enquire into the expediency of so amending the code as to provide that jurors in criminal cases shall serve without compensation. The committee would do well for themselves and for the State to find the suggested amendment expedient, so far, at least, as relates to cities and towns. It would break up the growing evil of professional jury-men, and tend to increase the unpopularity of the whole jury system, which, in this country, has become a potent means of defeating instead of promoting the ends of justice.

The weather that is now blessing the people of this section of country by making fuel almost unnecessary, and pork, turkeys and oysters cheap, is that of Indian summer. The air, though smoky, is not moist, and though the sun shines brilliantly, its warmth is tempered by the hazy atmosphere, and the nights are mild and beautiful. A green Christmas, it is said, makes a fat church yard, but it need not be so if people would avoid "taking cold" by clothing themselves according to the changes in the temperature of the weather.

A Radical on Southern Faith.

Mr. W. E. Chandler, who did as much as any other man toward effecting the Presidential fraud, but who now regrets the course he pursued—though not the acceptance of the money he got for it—because the President is not radical enough for him, in a letter to the N. Y. Tribune, says:—

A striking instance of "Southern faith" is the course pursued by Senator Gordon's friends since the assumed settlement of the difficulty between him and Senator Conkling.

The paper relative to the "so-called misunderstanding between Senators Conkling and Gordon, while stating that one party used the first offensive words," decided that there should be mutually and simultaneously withdrawn all the remarks of both. This decision if binding, was clearly a waiver of the right of the party to whom the first offensive words were spoken to require, in order to a settlement, that those words should be first withdrawn. Such waiver clearly left no right to the party who first offended to publicly insist that he was first insulted by the other, and was proceeding to notice and resent the insult and demand satisfaction when friends intervened.

Is not this being done by Senator Gordon or his friends? The Washington Post of Saturday asserts that the insults of Conkling, systematically given to Southern Senators for the deliberate purpose of stirring up bad blood, culminated in executive session the day before, and then gives an account of the transaction which represents Senator Conkling as first insulting Senator Gordon, while the latter only "rebuked the insult" and "firmly and distinctly" repeated his remarks. Next, the Washington Post of Monday has an interview with Senator Gordon, who is represented as saying that the account in Saturday's Post was "precisely accurate, and that a true account of the matter could be obtained from his friends; and then follows an account of an interview with a Southern Senator, who is represented as asserting that Senator Gordon was entirely right, Senator Conkling in every way wrong, and that had not the matter become personal, Gordon would undoubtedly by a large vote have been sustained by the Senate in his position. Senator Gordon felt that he was right; he also felt that Mr. Conkling's remarks could be construed in no other way than as an insult to him, and so his friends felt."

This version of the facts is being spread over the whole South, and also to a less extent, in the North. Now, if it should be true, as I assert it is—

1. That Senator Gordon uttered the first offensive words.
2. That Senator Conkling replied in justifiable parliamentary language, and therefore,
3. That Senator Gordon was all wrong and Senator Conkling entirely right—

Should not Senator Gordon, if responsible for the Post's utterance, or his friends, be requested to refrain from giving out untrue statements of the affair, and should not the correct statements be given to the world in as authentic a form as has the settlement, whereby Senator Conkling has waived that which was first due to him, namely, an apology from Senator Gordon?

It is of some importance to know whether this first attempt to renew plantation manners in the Senate is to be understood as based upon the old Southern plan: "First insult your Northern man. If he resents it in any way, insist that he first insulted you, and either knock him down, shoot him on the spot, or challenge him."

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Dec. 20.—The City Hotel, a large four-story building, was burned this morning, together with most of the furniture; the guests also lost most of their private effects. Loss heavy, but not yet fully ascertained.

A broken rail on the Philadelphia and Reading railroad caused the complete wreck of an engine and 40 cars, heavily freighted with coal, at Limerick Station, this morning. Passenger and freight trains are much delayed.

News of the Day.

The negotiations pending between the creditors of Tennessee and the Legislature for the settlement of the State debt, on the basis of fifty per cent, and six per cent, interest, are likely to be terminated to-morrow by a proposition of Judge John J. McKinnon, who is the representative of the Funding Association of America (limited). It is said that they will offer to fund the debt at fifty per cent, in bonds bearing four per cent interest. This will save the State two per cent, per annum on the debt, provided the bondholders acquiesce; and enable the Funding Association to fund these bonds. It is understood that the Funding Association has a capital of \$10,000,000, and that it is composed of Messrs. Hugh McCulloch, late Secretary of the Treasury; August Belmont, Director, Morgan & Co., and Winslow, Loring & Co. The smallness of the capital of the Association has caused some discussion concerning its ability to carry out such an undertaking as the funding of the State debt.

A Chicago dispatch says: Kelley, Morley & Co., coal dealers, and H. W. Wetherell & Co., millinery and straw goods, are reported failed. The liabilities of Kelley, Morley & Co. will reach \$300,000, while their assets, it is believed, will not realize over or quite 40 cents on the dollar. By this failure a large number of eastern firms suffer. The Wetherell failure is a bad one, though smaller than the former. A statement will be made soon.

A meeting of the St. Louis Board of Trade was held last evening in regard to the propriety of forming the Mississippi Valley Trading Company, to charter steamers to ply between New Orleans and the West Indies and South America. It is said a considerable sum has been subscribed in New Orleans towards the Company, the directors of which are to promote trade by making advances on shipments made by shareholders.

The Rev. George Fox Seymour, D. D., Dean of the General Theological Seminary of New York, has been elected Bishop of the Springfield Diocese, created by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The Rev. Dr. Harris, recently elected Bishop of the new Diocese of Quincy, has declined the episcopate.

George Reed, a collector for several St. Louis banks, was waylaid by two unknown men while entering the stock yards above that city, yesterday, and robbed of his pocketbook, containing \$20,000 in drafts and only \$56 in money. No arrests.

William Poor, the young man who was bitten by a dog, near Washington, nine weeks ago, and who has been suffering with a severe attack of hydrophobia since Monday morning last, died yesterday morning, at six o'clock, in convulsions.

Mr. Edward Crane has projected a scheme to build a thirty-inch wide-railroad on each side of the entire Erie Canal, and all its laterals, for towing canal boats and the carrying of freight and passengers at wonderfully low rates.

A boy, eleven years old, in Boston, yesterday, fired a revolver at a child three years old, causing death. They were playing together, and the shot was fired because the child scratched the older playmate in the face.

The keeper of the life saving station at Kitty Hawk informs the Chief Signal Officer at Washington that a dead body of a white man, very much decomposed, was found seven miles north of station No. 5 yesterday and buried.

A special dispatch from Lawrenceville, Ill., states that the Lawrence county treasurer's office was robbed of \$30,000 on Tuesday night. There is no clue to the burglars.

A dispatch from Cold Water, Mich., says J. C. Duncan, the absconding president of the Pioneer Bank of San Francisco, is there. Steps have been taken to secure his arrest.

The banking house of Geo. Baker, at Chester, Pa., suspended payment this morning. Mr. Baker declines to make any statement as to his liabilities or assets at present.

A dispatch from the Governor of Texas asserts positively that the mob committing the butchery was assisted by Mexicans from the other side of the Rio Grande.

A Tooth for a Tooth.

Last April a man named Roberts, who went out to the Black Hills from Delaware, was captured by the Indians near Deadwood. When they had robbed him of everything except shirt and pants, six of the seven red skins were in favor of turning him loose and letting him get back to the city. The seventh Indian protested against this action, and, when he had to submit to the majority, he struck Roberts in the mouth with the head of his tomahawk, smashing out several teeth and inflicting other injuries. Roberts took a good look at the warrior, and, as he was turned loose, he vowed to get even, if he had to stay out there until Darwin turned back into a baboon.

The mills of the gods grind for savages as well as for white men. Roberts and others have a camp about two miles from Deadwood. Indian beggars and loafers come into all the camps almost daily, and the other day old top-knot who played smash with the Delaware man's teeth, entered the camp and wanted to trade a lot of fresh venison for bar lead. Roberts identified him in an instant, and the venison and the savage were "jerked" at one and the same moment.

All the men in the camp knew how Roberts had been served, and when he had the right man in his grasp, there was no one to plead the other side of the case. The Indian was asked down on the grass as the first move. He recognized Roberts, and realizing that the hour of reckoning had come, he whined like a dog. He offered, rifle, knife, and all else to settle the doctory business, but the miner could not have been bought off for \$10,000. When he got ready he went to work with the red man's tomahawk, and deliberately knocked out every tooth he could get at, and he did not miss a great many. The Indian had no more grit than a boy, but yelled like a regiment of cavalry going into a fight.

A tooth for a tooth was not enough for Roberts, and he coolly sliced off his victim's ears, working slowly, and doing a first rate job. Then he sheared the wearer's topknot off, and turned him loose to find his friends and receive their praises on his early assumption of fall styles.

The wretch did not wait a second after being told to go—didn't even ask for his ears pocket pieces. Roberts had them pinned up as relics, with a bag full of teeth hanging above them, and to strangers he explains:—"The damned fellow who picks my molars with his Thomas hawk wants to leave the country on the very first train, or he'll wish he'd been born a buzzard."

Sitting Bull.

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—The Times' special dispatch from Helena, Montana, says: "Father Genin arrived at Marias river on Sunday, and reported to Fort Benton, by messenger, that Sitting Bull has crossed the line and camped at Bear Paw Mountains with a large force of Sioux and Nez Perces. A man named Valentine is supposed to be killed. This is confirmed from other sources, and it is stated that the Indians are burning the prairies south of the Bear Paw, and that Sitting Bull is on Miles' battle ground, and has been joined by Lame Deer's band of 75 lodges."

The El Paso Troubles.

CHICAGO, Sept. 20.—Official dispatches from El Paso, received this morning at Gen. Sheridan's headquarters, state that nothing important has occurred there during the last twenty-four hours. The United States troops began to arrive there from New Mexico yesterday, and it is expected that by day or to-morrow a sufficient force will be there to render further disturbances of peace unlikely.

Foreign News.

A telegram from Ragusa reports that 6,000 Turks from Podgoritzia have compelled a Montenegrin corps to retreat into their own territory, and are now marching to Suva Gora and Antivari.

The Servians have occupied Fort Mramor, near Nisch.

The St. Petersburg Gazette announces that General Tollenbe has been appointed commander of the Army of Rostchuk, with Prince Imeritinsky as his Chief of Staff.

A Vienna correspondent says:—"It was thought for some time that England might bring the Turkish note officially to the knowledge of the Russian Government, but according to the latest information, the British Cabinet decided on Tuesday that, in view of the difference of opinion among the Powers, any attempt to mediate would be inopportune. The Porte intends to lay the whole question of negotiation before the Turkish Parliament, making further steps dependent on its decision."

The Servians have occupied Przekopje, an unopposed.

A dispatch from Constantinople contains the following:—"It is said the Porte has instructed its Minister at Rome to ask for an explanation of the relations which are growing more and more intimate between Italy and Greece." Count Andrassy, addressing the Budget Committee to-day, said he had come to the conclusion that he could under no circumstances ever make the slightest alteration in the policy hitherto pursued, which consisted in maintaining neutrality. While providing for the protection of Austria's interest and the exercise of her influence at the final settlement, Austria would decidedly protest and if necessary prevent any attempt on the part of Servia to extend her operations to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

London is excited by rumors of projected changes in the Cabinet, and the newspapers are filled with speculations regarding the meeting of Parliament in January, a month earlier than usual, in order that grants will be asked for to make ready for eventualities. It was also reported that the reply of Germany was sounded with regard to mediation was a significant rebuff, and plainly intimated that Germany would do nothing to prevent Russia from crowding Turkey out of her position as one of the Powers of Europe. The mediation proposition is considered as exploded. Russia is looked by the more influential Powers in her demand that Turkey's overtures for peace shall in the first instance be addressed to her. One opinion of the British Cabinet is credited with the wish that Russia shall consent to refer the ultimate terms of settlement to the approval of the Powers.

Queen Victoria is to open the British Parliament in person.

A Rome special says the Countess Mirafiori, wife of King Victor Emmanuel, is reported dead, in Turin. The King states (thither to day. She was married to the King early in 1869 by a Jesuit priest in the most formal and regular manner.

The Paris Journal des Debats states that there is no doubt that England has earnestly sounded the Powers, to ascertain whether it is possible to organize common diplomatic action with a view to the restoration of peace.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The Times urges that there is no change in the situation of the belligerents since Lord Derby's recent speech to the deputation representing the society for the protection of British interests and other political societies which presented a memorial for active interference in favor of Turkey, and says:—"All arguments against interference therein remain good now. The supremacy of Great Britain is not endangered. At the same time there are interests not threatened by the progress of war, except so far as the mutual cohesion of the whole Ottoman Empire is threatened, and the danger to the British Empire is thereby increased. The character of war. We are not going to allow our interests to be bound up with the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire in its integrity or independence. It will be found when Parliament meets that the communications the Ministers will have to make in both houses are not inspired by that terror which now distorts the mental vision and distracts the judgment of so many."

The Times, in a leading article, throws out strong indications of the writer's belief that Parliament will be asked to vote money for the purchase of a further interest of some kind in Egypt.

(Note.—There are two purchases possible, namely, the Khedive's remaining interest in the Suez Canal and the Porte's suzerainty over Egypt.)

The Daily News in its leading article says:—"We think Parliament is summoned to approve war preparations."

A Paris dispatch to the Pall Mall Gazette says: The Marquis of Harcourt, French Ambassador to London, is to be removed, and the Marquis of Banneville will go as Ambassador to Constantinople.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The Manchester Guardian in its issue this morning prints a dispatch from its London correspondent which says:—"Every attempt to strike out a new foreign policy for the government revives discussions in the Cabinet. The retirement of Lord Derby, Foreign Minister, is by no means improbable. Among the number of rumored reports concerning the coming of Parliament are increased armaments, a war vote and the purchase of the Turkish fleet."

Several financial articles in this morning's London journals note a firmness in Egyptian bonds yesterday, amid the general depression and ascribe it to political reasons.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.—The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia North American says:—"The rupture between the President and his party becomes the more painful to look upon when it is felt that so barren an identity of opinion as that which has been the cause of the Civil Service Reform is the cause of the estrangement. It was by way of carrying out his Civil Service ideas that the President allowed Mr. Evans to name for office in New York men whom he knew would be distasteful to Mr. Conkling. Of course Mr. Evans, (for as he is in politics, has some thoughts which he keeps to himself, so that the President is only to be blamed, if blamed at all, for not being a better judge of men.—There seems to have been no one of the President's advisers to tell him that Mr. Conkling was not the only Senator who would be offended by this kind of Civil Service Reform. The hollowness of the pious pretense was apparent when people came to reflect that the advice of democratic Senators and Representatives was not only taken, but solicited on appointments. The doctrine of no Senatorial interference came with bad taste from a President who had appointed a Vice President and a General of the late Confederacy—the one by the grace of the Republican party a Representative in Congress and the other a Senator from Georgia. The Evans more on Conkling sounded the alarm, and other Senators took flight. The defensive alliance which followed and hampered the President was natural and inevitable."

SENATOR PATTERSON'S CASE.—A dispatch from Columbia, S. C., says the State Senate to-day referred to the committee on Federal Relations the concurrent resolution requiring the joint investigating committee to report the evidence in their possession upon which indictments have been found against John J. Patterson to the end that it might be forwarded to the Senate of the United States. It is not likely that the Committee on Federal Relations will report during the present session, if ever, and it is generally conceded that this troublesome matter has been settled finally, even if indirectly.

Judge Thomas Shackelford, formerly Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Mississippi, died in New Orleans yesterday.

Vanderbilt Will Contest.

The Vanderbilt will contest was opened again in New York on Tuesday. Mrs. Caldwell, a former servant in Commodore Vanderbilt's family, testified that on one occasion when the Commodore received a letter from his son, Cornelius J. Vanderbilt, he said:—"That fellow, or that scamp, could write a letter to the Queen." The chief feature of the day's proceedings was the testimony of Cornelius J. Vanderbilt. He is a son of the testator and is forty-six years old. He lived at his father's house, he said, until about his eighteenth year, and left it then because his father's treatment was harsh; he preferred to live away from home, and his father's father preferred to have him; his father allowed him a monthly stipend of \$100 up to the time of his marriage, November, 1856; he increased this, first to \$150, and subsequently to \$200 and \$250 per month, the last increase being made after the death of the witness's wife. In 1854 the witness was arrested and taken to Dr. Brown's insane asylum. This occurred on Sunday evening, and he was kept at the asylum until the following morning, when the doctor brought him back to the city, telling him that he was a sane man. He then got out a writ of habeas corpus, knowing that the same commitment would be sufficient to put him in any other asylum. The issue of the writ was opposed by William H. Vanderbilt and Charles A. Rapallo. William H. told him that he had better withdraw all opposition to his commitment, as there was a warrant out for his arrest on a charge of forgery, and that he would escape the penitentiary by going to the asylum. He also told him that if he persisted in getting a habeas corpus his father would disinherit him. The Commodore at that time was daily expected to die.

The witness afterwards told Wm. H. he would rather be considered a rascal than a lunatic. He next saw Wm. H. to speak with him about two years later, at the time of witness's wedding. He saw him again at the Grand Central depot in 1872 and 1873. Wm. H. was very overbearing and haughty. He afterwards spoke to his father about it, and his father reproved Wm. H. sharply; his father then called Wm. H. a "beetle head," and said he had been trying to learn something for twenty years, but "didn't know enough to hold his gab."

William H. Vanderbilt evinced much excitement during the giving of the above testimony. He was continually urging his counsel to offer objections, which they frequently did. At this point he exclaimed in a loud tone: "He's making it all up."

Yesterday Judge Black, counsel for contestant, offered to prove, through Cornelius J. Vanderbilt, that he had not been gambling or doing anything about the time the will was made which could excite his father's displeasure. Mr. Lord offered to prove that Cornelius J. Vanderbilt's good behavior was known to his father; that his father spoke to him, which gave him high hopes for the future; that this being known to Wm. H., he conspired to injure Cornelius J. with his father, and with that object in view he got a person of dissipated habits to personate Cornelius J. and visit several gambling halls and other places so that a detective who followed him could report to William H. that his brother had fallen into evil courses, which were reported by William H. to his father, whereas he was much excited and disappointed, and that the will was made a month after.

William H. Vanderbilt regarded counsel while making this statement with a look of surprise. Judge Comstock said that what was offered to be proved did not amount to undue influence any more than procuring money on forged checks. Mr. Lord turning around and facing his eyes on Wm. H. Vanderbilt (who immediately looked in another direction), went on to argue that his Honor had to consider whether the testator would have made a different will but for undue influence brought to bear on him. After further argument the Court decided to admit the testimony relating to the conspiracy, and Cornelius J. Vanderbilt was recalled and testified that he had not at the time named in his previous testimony visited gambling houses. He had endeavored to persuade William to give him a place on the railroads or to influence his father to do so. William had, however, refused to interfere, saying he should only be damned up and down for his pains. Witness said on returning from the funeral he had a conversation with his brother William. This was an offer to prove that William expressed surprise at the contents of the will and said he knew nothing about it whatever. He did know of the contents before the will was opened, thus showing guilty knowledge.

Virginia News.

The Governor has commuted the sentence of Louisiana Lawson and Silas Morris, convicted by the county court of Rockingham, and sentenced to be hanged Friday, for being accessories before the fact of the murder of David G. Lawson, husband of Mrs. Lawson, to imprisonment in the penitentiary for life.

Mrs. George Rhodes was dragged to the ground, terribly bitten, and would have been killed by two vicious dogs belonging to Robert Bruce, at Gordonsville, last Saturday, had it not been that her husband heard her cries and drove off her assailants.

Mr. David Acher died at his residence in Leesburg, on Thursday evening last, in the 35th year of his age. During the late war Mr. A. was a gallant member of Col. Mosby's command.

The frame barn on the farm of Mr. James H. Cox, in Chesterfield county, near Petersburg, was set on fire and burned, on Tuesday night, with a large quantity of provender stored therein.

Rev. Charles Randolph, of the Episcopal Church, was ordained to the priest's office, in Richmond, yesterday.

A negro boy in attempting to cross the railroad track, in Petersburg, on Wednesday, was run over and killed.

The Legislature adjourned to-day for the Christmas holidays. It will reassemble on the first of January.

Letter from Westmoreland.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.] WESTMORELAND, VA., Dec. 18.—Was there ever such a December? The hazy horizon of Indian summer is all around us, the bees are busy, the wasps are flying all about, the small winged insects, which one only sees as signs of April, are filling the air, and the vegetation is as green as though there had been no frost. I saw rosebuds so far opened as to show the colors, and the small flowers that are seen about the fields, still bloom. A pear tree near the house has young pears on it, and I hear of many trees in blossom. It is reported that strawberries were gathered in the lower end of the county about six weeks ago, but I did not see this myself.

We want the railroad down the "Neck," and the slim prospect of getting it has caused us to think of its advantages. This is practically an inaccessible country in winter. The boats, which are the means of ingress and egress from all this section, stop their trips about Christmas, and from then till spring we are cut off from the outer world as effectually as though this was the centre of Colorado. Think of a man who has business in Fredericksburg or beyond, having to travel overland seventy or eighty miles to get to the nearest railroad! As it is the resources of this region are in measure undeveloped. It ought to be the garden of Virginia.

Speaking of Fredericksburg, that quiet old place seems to be more than usually active lately. What, with the new railroad to Orange C. H., and other things, it seems as though there is more trade than formerly. The streets are lively with wagons, and the stores have a business air quite in contrast with its usual apathy as seen a few years ago.

From Washington.

[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE GAZETTE.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 20.

There is nothing of interest here to-day.

The President leaves to-night to attend the Union League dinner in New York.

No Presidential appointments will be made during the holidays.

A commission has been issued for Brady, confirmed as Internal Revenue Collector for the Second district of Virginia. The bond is fixed at \$100,000. It is to be executed and approved before the new officer enters upon his duties.

The Senate committee on the Mexican troubles have adjourned until after the holidays.

A committee of the Ways and Means committee of the House will probably report to the whole committee a proposition to reimpose an income tax, the object being to obtain by this means a decrease of the tobacco tax and of one or two other internal taxes.

The President has pardoned John A. Joyce, convicted of conspiracy to defraud the United States on distilled spirits. The pardon is full and unconditional. Joyce was sentenced in St. Louis to \$2,000 fine in addition to his imprisonment. He had served his term and was unable to pay the fine.

Letter from Richmond.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.] RICHMOND, December 19, 1877.

In legislative circles everything is at a standstill at present.

To-day, in the Senate, Mr. Lee, from the Committee on Roads, reported, with recommendation that it do not pass, Senate bill to amend an act to incorporate the Potomac and Manassas Railroad Company.

Judge Kerr, of North Carolina, was in the city to-day. Hon. B. B. Douglas was here also, and visited the Legislature, where he was warmly received.

The committee to whom was referred the bill for protection of game reported it to the House to-day. Mr. McMullan offered an amendment to the bill, so as to allow persons to catch in traps and nets partridges on their own land during the hunting season. This caused much debate, and had the effect of having the whole matter laid on the table.

The House has now an official stenographer—Rev. Dr. Luffery—and he will keep a record of all the debates, which can be used for future reference. No man will be able to go back on what he has said.

Lieutenant Governor Thomas will preside as usual in the Senate to-morrow for the last time. He will give way to Lieutenant Governor Walker on the 1st.

Senator Elliott, Chairman of Committee on Immigration, opposes the giving away of five copies to each member of the Legislature of Mr. Hotchkiss' summary of Virginia. It is, therefore, likely that the matter will die out. It makes little difference, however, as the members would simply give them away to their friends, and many of the volumes would be used simply as waste paper. The better plan would be to send them to England, and put them in the hands of some responsible friend of the old Dominion, so that they could be given to immigrants. No good can come of distributing them in the State, for we know enough of the mineral resources of the State. We want outsiders to know as much as we do.

Notwithstanding all the talk about reduction of salaries of officers throughout the State, I am inclined to believe that the Legislature will not do much in this direction.

Legislative.

In the State Senate, yesterday, an adverse report was made upon a bill to amend the charter of the Potomac and Manassas Railroad Company. The bill to amend the Code in relation to admission to the public schools was favorably reported. A resolution was adopted requesting the Auditor to furnish a statement of the amount of compensation allowed by the judge of the circuit, county, and corporation in the State, Commonwealth's attorneys, sheriffs, city clerks, &c. Bills were referred to secure deposits on banking institutions organized under the laws of the State, and to amend the act prescribing the duties, liabilities, powers and compensation of district officers. There was a long debate upon the resolution providing for the cost and maintenance of the canals to be furnished for work on the James River canal prior to its passage.

In the House of Delegates, bills and resolutions were presented to protect game; to provide that the offense of house breaking shall be punished as petit larceny, unless the value of the house and its contents exceed fifty dollars; to provide for the appointment of a conference of widows and the guardians of infant children who own "peeler bonds" with the Executive and General Assembly; to amend the Code in regard to the enforcement of executions; to amend the Code in relation to the jurisdiction of justices of the peace; to inquire into the expediency of amending the Constitution by abolishing the office of county treasurers and restoring the duties of sheriff; and to inquire into the constitutional validity of so amending the funding act as to get rid of the exchange feature of one class and denomination of bonds for another, &c. A bill was reported to provide a fence law for the county of Loudoun, &c., and a resolution was referred instructing the Committee on Re-trenchment and Economy to compare the expenses of the State Government for the years 1850 and 1877, and report where the said expenses have increased and wherein they should be reduced. The same committee was also directed to report whether the fees and commissions allowed under the existing laws to the county and city officers, or any of them, should be reduced. A motion to amend "the game law" as to allow persons to catch in traps and nets partridges on their own land, and was finally tabled. Mr. Lovell presented a memorial from the land owners of Warren county, and Mr. Ashton introduced a resolution in regard to the adjustment of the debt.

A TERRIBLE FATE.—An exciting and fatal accident occurred yesterday on the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad between Bladensburg and Beltsville. Mr. Woods, the proprietor of the George Washington Hotel at Bladensburg, a man very well known in that locality, was driving along the road which crosses the railway tracks near Branchville. Mr. Woods drove his horse and wagon on the track just as the 10:30 a. m. express train from Baltimore was approaching. The train was going as fast as express trains usually go between Baltimore and Washington. The flagman, some persons say, waved his hand to Mr. Woods to keep back. However this may be, Mr. Woods proceeded to drive across the track at a rapid rate of speed, and was probably un- aware of the approach of the train, which struck the horse and wagon like a flash of lightning. The wagon was smashed into atoms, and a part of it, including the whip in the socket, before the engine was stopped. The horse was thrown high up and about fifty feet distant. Mr. Woods was thrown much farther, and when his quivering, mangled body was sought out the brains were found scattered all about, and the bowels protruded from the great gaping openings in the flesh. The body was almost entirely stripped of clothing. No power of the elements could have done such horrible work in the twinkling of an eye. Mr. Woods was between forty and fifty years old, and leaves a wife and several children.—Balt. American.

Thousands of men have their eyes turned toward Wall St. The enterprising American is a natural speculator. He is venturesome, bold and usually shrewd in his operations. But speculators need to employ brokers who are experienced and honest. We can unreservedly recommend Alex. Frothingham & Co., 12 Wall St. Send for their "Financial Report," before making any investments.

GOOD ADVICE.—R. H. Cain, colored, member of the House of Representatives from South Carolina, delivered an address to colored people in Baltimore, last night, in which he said:—"On the colored man depends the future prosperity of the South. He raises its rice and cotton, is the carpenter, painter and mechanic generally. His white men are great in arts, literature, as merchants, factors, employers generally. In the South are the best white men in the world. There are some bad ones, as there are some everywhere under the same circumstances. The negro must make a policy for himself. He must take hold. He stands to-day idle in the city when \$6 to \$16 a month is waiting for him in the country. There are 42,000 colored men in Washington, and 20,000 almost are beggars. Farmers in Maryland and Virginia offer them \$6 and \$10 a month and they won't budge an inch. He ridiculed the negro's ambition for more school learning, and said that they should dare to do was to educate the hand and feet to work. They should educate from the ground upward. Negro boys and girls must learn to labor, not to wait. No policy can save them—an administration can do it. Their own hands must do it."

A DESCENT UPON THE FARGO BANKS.—Last night Lieut. Austin, Sergeant Gay, and a squad of the officers of the Fifth Regiment, made a raid upon a gambling den located over Galtrey's sample room, No. 1345 E-street, northwest. They found nobody in attendance except the colored waiter, Wm. Thomas, who found the rooms pleasantly lighted and heated, and everything apparently prepared for the night's business. They captured several gambling tables, a silver deal box, some packs of cards, a large quantity of chips, and other gambling apparatus. The tables, together with the colored man, were left in charge of an officer, and the other material was removed to the station house. It could not be learned who is the proprietor of this establishment. Almost at the same moment Sergeant Hollenberry, with a squad of officers, made a descent upon another gambling hall, situated over Eubank's bar room, at the southwest corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Fourth street, northwest, the alleged proprietor of which is a man named John Kelley. Nobody at all was to be found here, and all the officers had for their trouble was an extensive assortment of gambling paraphernalia, which was disposed of in the same manner as those captured in the first named place.—Wash. Rep.

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS.—In the Court of Appeals at Richmond, yesterday, McVeigh vs. Allen, from the Corporation Court of the city of Alexandria; reversed, Judge Staples delivering the opinion of the court.

Lloyd vs. Erwin's administrator, &c., from the Circuit Court of Fairfax county; affirmed, Judge Burks delivering the opinion of the court.

Lawson vs. Commonwealth; writ of error refused to a judgment of the Circuit Court of Rockingham.

The Court then adjourned until the 5th day of January, 18